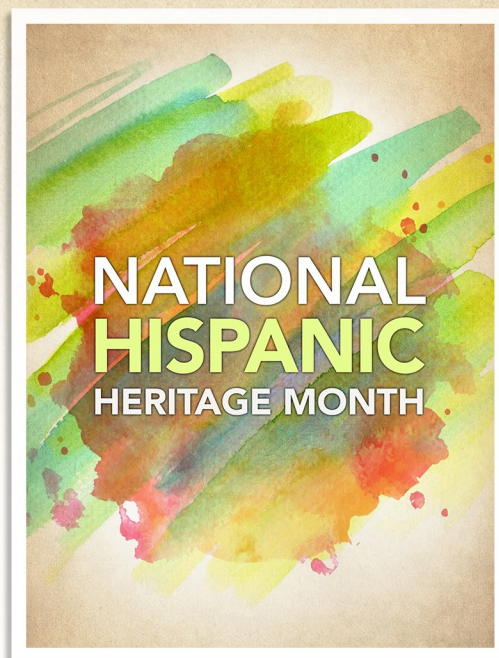


CULTURAL  
AWARENESS



# OBSERVANCE

## National Hispanic Heritage Month



### FACTS

National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from September 15th through October 16th. Each year the Department of Defense (DoD), along with the rest of the Nation, recognizes the important contributions and rich culture of Hispanic Americans.

This year's theme is: *Unidos – Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation*. Unidos can be roughly translated to mean united, connected, or close. This concept of unity and togetherness giving us strength is one that has been long held by the DoD, and it is a driving factor in our strive for inclusivity and equal opportunity.

Hispanic Heritage Month began as a commemorative week when it was first introduced in June of 1968. The push to recognize the contributions of the Hispanic community had gained momentum throughout the 1960s during the civil rights movement with the growing awareness of the United States' multicultural identities.

From 1968 until 1988, Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter and Reagan all issued the yearly proclamations, setting aside a week to honor Hispanic Americans.

In 1987, U.S. Representative Esteban E. Torres proposed the expanding the observance to cover its current 31-day period. Torres wanted more time so that the nation could *“properly observe and coordinate events and activities to celebrate Hispanic culture and achievement.”*

In 1988, Senator Paul Simon, submitted a similar bill that successfully passed Congress and was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan on August 17, 1988.

On September 14, 1989, President George H.W. Bush (who had been a sponsor of the original Hispanic Heritage Week resolution while serving in the House in 1968) became the first president to declare the 31-day period from September 15 to October 15 as National Hispanic Heritage Month.